

January 6, 1959 *Aburston*

~~SECRET - OFFICIAL - INFORMAL~~

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Dear Ray:

You will recall that the Secretary discussed with General Norstad the possibility of the latter's taking, in the near future, certain "tightening up" action, in the form of troop redeployments, etc., the significance of which would not be lost upon the Soviets.

I expect that inquiries will shortly be made as to what is happening in this regard, and I wonder if you could let me know General Norstad's present thinking and plans. Incidentally, I should mention in this connection that the positive response we have authorized David Bruce to convey to his friends in reply to a recent request from them is viewed by the Secretary and Livie Merchant as a step which will generally advance the objectives which the Secretary had in mind in his Paris discussion with General Norstad.

Obviously, the foregoing is to be treated only as a simple request for information, as I am certainly not authorized to suggest any specific actions to SACEUR, nor is this letter to be treated as a subtle attempt to speed up any timetable that General Norstad may have in mind.

This letter is intended for the eyes of General Norstad and yourself only, and I am not sending copies to anyone else.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

P.S. The Memorandum of Conversation to which I refer is, of course, B. E. L. Timmons
USDEL/MC/8 of December 15, 1958.

Ray L. Thurston, Esquire,
Counselor of Embassy,
American Embassy,
Paris.

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